

REMARKS

The Examiner has asked for a revised title. Applicants have complied.

The Examiner as objected to the drawings, requesting that blank boxes be labeled. Submitted herewith are proposed revised drawings, with the added material presented in red for approval.

Claim 10 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, due to a typographical error. The claim has been corrected.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, and 11, have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lence Barreiro, et al '923, while claims 3-6, 12 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious and unpatentable over the combination of Lence Barreiro, et al '923 and Moore, et al '442. Claims 9 and 10 have been found to be of allowable scope.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-8 and 11-13, as follows.

The present invention relates to an elevator door monitoring system which incorporates sensors for monitoring the state of a monitored door and an evaluating system connected to the sensor for evaluating the signals provided by the sensor. The evaluating system evaluates the received signals on an interval basis for purposes of determining both the state of the monitored door, as well as changes over time of a signal characteristic of the sensor means. As set forth in

the specification, the evaluating system thus permits the condition of the sensor to be monitored, such that changes thereto may be accommodated or attended to, in addition to allowing the state of the door to be monitored. Thus, for example, signal degradation or the generation of noise as a result of sensor aging can be identified and appropriate steps taken to repair, replace or compensate for the changes. Claim 1 has been amended to more specifically set forth that signal evaluation is performed both to detect the state of the door and the condition of the sensor system as reflected by changes over time of a sensor signal characteristic. Such a detection of changes over time of a sensor signal characteristic is neither taught nor suggested by the art of record.

In particular, Lence Barreiro, et al '923 discloses a system which monitors door operation solely for purposes of monitoring elevator system performance as a whole, and particularly door problems. While the sensors monitor door operation and inherently do so over time, the reference provides no teaching or suggestion that sensor signals are evaluated over short time intervals for purposes of detecting the condition of the sensor system itself as reflected by changes over time of a signal characteristic of the sensors. Only door operation is referenced.

In addition, Moore, et al '442, cited by the Examiner for a teaching that on-site and remote monitoring can be provided, and that sensors can be connected in a bus configuration and in-site configurations fails to cure the deficiency of Lence Barreiro, et al '923. Moore, et al '442 also fails to disclose an elevator monitoring system in which changes over time of a signal characteristic of a sensor signal is monitored to determine the condition of the sensor system itself.

Withdrawal of the rejections and passage to allowance of all claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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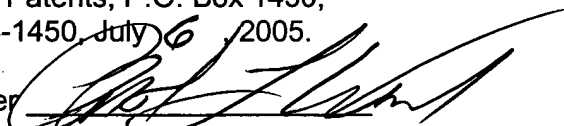


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